

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IGA-02 IO-13 H-02 DHA-02 ORM-02

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9037

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(CORRECTED COPY REF "C")

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EAID UNRWA JO US

SUBJECT: TQ FINANCING

REF (A) STATE 223796 (B) STATE 208590, (C) AMMAN 4709
(D) STATE 210557

1. PER REF A I INFORMED PRIME MINISTER BADRAN
SEPT 11 THAT FINAL TQ FUNDING PROPOSALS FOR JORDAN
WITH TQ UNRWA FUNDING FROM JORDAN NO LONGER UNDER
CONSIDERATION ARE NOW APPROXIMATELY. DOLS 51 M
IN BUDGET SUPPORT DOLS 8 M IN SPRINKLER
IRRIGATION AND DOLS ONE M FOR US EDUCATION
COSTS FOR FORMER AUB STUDENTS.

2. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO GO OVER GENERAL POINTS ON
TQ FINANCING IN REFTEL B I INDICATED THAT I KNEW
GOJ REALIZES THAT TQ FUNDING IS AN EXTRAORDINARY
DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL NOT BE REPEATED IN THE FUTURE
YEARS. I ADDED THAT IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THERE
WILL BE ANY POSSIBILITY OF MAKING AVAILABLE ANYTHING
OTHER THAN OUR REGULAR BUDGET SUPPORT FIGURES CONTAINED
IN FY77 CP AND THAT EVEN THIS AMOUNT IS SUBJECT
TO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT WE
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HAD DOLS 60 M FOR JORDAN IN TQ INSTEAD OF

THE DOLS 16-18 M WE HAD PROJECTED AS LATE AS IN JUNE GOJ MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER USING SOME OF BUDGET SUPPORT FOR MEETING NOT ONLY CURRENT BUT ALSO SOME FUTURE BUDGET PROBLEMS. WITHOUT MENTIONING OUR INTENTION TO SEND A LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER REQUESTING CLOSER CONSULTATIONS ON GOJ BUDGET ISSUES, I INDICATED THAT I BELIEVE AMBASSADOR WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS BUDGET ISSUES GENERALLY WITH PRIME MINISTER UPON HIS RETURN FROM HOMELEAVE.

3. IN REPLY PRIME MINISTER SAID GOJ IS GRATEFUL TO USG TQ PROGRAM FUNDS GOJ BUDGET IS IN DIFFICULTY. IT OWES DOLS 12 M IN BILLS FOR AUGUST AND HAS RECEIVED NO EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE THUS FAR IN SEPTEMBER FROM USG OR ARAB STATES. BADRAN MENTIONED IMPORTANT EFFORTS GOJ IS MAKING TO SOLVE CITIZENS PROBLEMS IN PARTICULAR HE MENTIONED HIGH COSTS OF SOLVING CURRENT WATER CRISIS.

4. I TOLD BADRAN PER PARA 3 REF A THAT WE ARE WORKING URGENTLY TO SUBMIT TEQ PROGRAM TO CONGRESS BUT BECAUSE OF 15 DAY NOTIFICATION PERIOD THIS MEANT THAT FUNDS WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL CLOSE TO SEPT 30. BADRAN ASKED IF PROCESS COULD NOT BE SPEEDED UP BUT ACCEPTED MY REPLY THAT I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DO SO. BADRAN INDICATED KEY GOJ OFFICIALS WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON SHORT NOTICE TOWARDS END OF SEPT TO WRAP UP THE TQ PROGRAM.

5. COMMENT: WITH GOJ PLEASED WITH UNEXPECTED HIGH LEVEL TQ PROGRAM TO HELP THEM OVER CURRENT BUDGET DIFFICULTIES STAGE IS NOT SET FOR GENERAL DISCUSSIONS UPON AMBASSADOR'S RETURN (EF D) AIMED AT INDUCING GOJ TO FOLLOW BUDGET PLANNING PRACTICES THAT MIGHT AVERT BUDGET CRISIS SUCH AS THEY ARE NOW EXPERIENCING. BADRAN IS PROVIDING HIMSELF A "FIX IT" PRIME MINISTER CONCENTRATING ON MAKING THOSE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS WORK (WATER ELECTRICITY PORTS) WHICH MOST DIRECTLY TOUCH THE DAILY LIVES OF THE ORDINARY JORDANIANS. HE SEEMS TO

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BE CONCENTRATING THUS FAR ON GOJ EXPENDITURES BUT IS PAINFULLY AWARE OF REVENUE SHORTFALLS FOR PROGRAMS HE WANTS TO SUCCEED. HE COULD WELCOME ANY DIALOGUE WITH US THAT PROMISES TO IMPROVE HIS BUDGET PLANNING GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF JORDANIANS BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS TO THE SUCCESS OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S MANDATE TO IMPROVE GOJ PERFORMANCE IN DOMESTIC FIELD.

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